

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2003. Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claims 24-27 have been cancelled.

The two independent claims in the application, claims 1 and 16, have been amended.

In the Office Action it was indicated that "enhanced content programming" does not serve as a claim limitation, and that additionally "enhanced television signal" does not serve as a claim limitation.

Applicant, in order to more clearly indicate the nature of the enhanced television signal, has added the limitation to enhance television signal of "permitting user interactivity." This is discussed in the application, for instance, at page 7, line 17:

Enhanced television programming can operate over either analog or digital video systems using terrestrial, cable, optical fiber, satellite, or Internet networks. In contrast to standard television programming, enhanced television programming allows user interactivity.

As for enhanced content programming, the specification states at page 8, beginning at line 3:

Examples of standards that are being promulgated for use with enhanced content programming include the Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) standard and the xHTML standard, the latter being drafted in cooperation with the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC). Although there may be differences between the various standards and the requirements that they place on the Content Provider, the Network Operator, and the Receiver, they each require means for indicating when enhanced content is available as well as its location. This information, referred herein as a trigger, is provided via a data or trigger stream that accompanies the non-enhanced programming.... Typically associate with each trigger is a uniform resource locator (URL) which provides the location of the enhancement. (See lines 24 on).

Consequently, "wherein the enhanced content programming includes enhanced television signals permitting user interactivity" has meaning beyond the mere nature of the programming which the Office Action indicates provides no limitation.

Applicant submits that giving full meaning to this term takes it out of the realm of Ginter and Ginter's video distribution environment (VDE).


Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early allowance would be appreciated.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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